



Center for Drinking Water Quality

Household cleaning and sanitizing procedures for after a Boil Water Notice has been lifted

When the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) lifts a boil water notice, residents should follow these recommendations to help ensure drinking water is safe.

Refrigerators with water dispensers or ice makers

Before use, water dispensers and ice machines must be cleaned and sanitized with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach to one gallon of water. Follow the manufacturer's suggested sanitizing procedures in the operator's manual. At a minimum, residents should:

- Run the water dispenser for 3 to 5 minutes to get any contaminated water out of the lines.
- Run the ice maker for at least 30 minutes.
- Throw away the first batch of ice that the refrigerator makes.
- Wash and sanitize the area in and around the ice collection bin.

All external filtering devices associated with ice machines should be sanitized. Filter cartridges should also be changed.

Water treatment units

Replace any water treatment filter cartridges.

Faucets/Taps

Any faucets or taps should be run for 10 minutes to ensure that any contamination that may be present is removed.

Reminder: Use cold water for cooking and drinking instead of water that has been sitting in the hot water tank.

Call the Center for Drinking Water Quality main line at 401-222-6867, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. if you have any questions. After hours or on weekends, call RIDOH's emergency line at 401-276-8046.